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whenever favorable clinical material exists and the infection is introduced.

The route of the proposed canal is swampy for 8 miles on the Colon end and for 5 miles on the Panama end, and several smaller areas of this character exist between these points.

However, a number of excellent sites exist for camps in the hills, and the canal company have located most of their camps in such localities.

There are 2,600 houses belonging to the canal company that are in a fair state of preservation and can be available for use after only minor repairs. It is estimated that they had accommodation for 15,000 people, and their camps at Bas Obispo, Culebra, and Empire are certainly well located. All their camps are so located as to be easily drained, and with the elimination of adjacent breeding places for mosquitoes, the installation of a proper water supply, and a system for the disposal of excreta and other refuse the health of the occupants should remain good.

The camp at Culebra will probably remain the most important, because at this point the men would be near 90 per cent of the work on the canal.

The camps already established can serve as nuclei for any additional accommodations that may become necessary on account of an increase in the number of laborers.

The climate where the camps are located is far superior to that of Colon or Panama, and with proper sanitary regulations by which they are maintained as sanitary units the health of the occupants should remain good.

Received February 27, 1904.

Officers of the Service stationed in foreign ports requested by Panama to act for that country in the same manner as for the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 24, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your consideration copy of a note from the minister of Panama at this capital, in which he suggests that United States medical officers at contaminated ports in foreign countries may be instructed to act in regard to vessels sailing for ports of Panama as they do in regard to vessels sailing for United States ports.

Awaiting your reply, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN HAY.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA,
Washington, D. C., February 20, 1904.

SIR: The Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service details in foreign ports, which are under the suspicion of contagious diseases, medical officers to assist the consuls of the United States, in order to prevent the transportation of diseases from said ports to ports of the United States by ships bound for them.

In view of the importance of the sanitary precautions for the great work that is going to be accomplished by the United States on the territory of the Republic of Panama, I beg to suggest to your excellency that orders be given to the medical officers detailed at the contaminated ports to exercise their authority and to dictate

the sanitary measures for all ships leaving said ports for the Republic of Panama exactly in the same manner as they are instructed to do for ships bound for the United States.

The adoption of this suggestion by the Government of the United States would be highly appreciated by the Government of the Republic of Panama.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

P. BUNAU-VARILLA.

His Excellency JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State, Washington.

FEBRUARY 27, 1904.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 24th instant, inclosing, for my consideration, copy of a note from the minister of Panama at this capital, in which he suggests that the United States medical officers at contaminated ports in foreign countries may be instructed to act in regard to vessels sailing for ports of Panama as they do in regard to vessels sailing for United States ports, I have the honor to state that the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service will issue instructions to officers of the Service serving in such foreign ports to comply with this request.

To facilitate the carrying out of these instructions it is requested that a circular letter of instructions be issued to all consuls in foreign ports to insure their cooperation in this work.

Respectfully,

R. B. ARMSTRONG,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF STATE.

The following circular letter of instructions was sent to all officers serving in foreign ports and ports in the possession and dependencies of the United States:

CIRCULAR LETTER.

MARCH 2, 1904.

To commissioned medical officers, acting assistant surgeons of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, and others concerned:

You are hereby informed that the minister of Panama at Washington has requested, through the Department of State, that United States medical officers at contaminated ports in foreign countries may be instructed to act in regard to vessels sailing for ports of Panama as they do in regard to vessels sailing to the United States; and the Secretary of the Treasury has informed the Secretary of State that instructions will be sent to officers of the Service serving in foreign ports to comply with this request.

You are therefore directed to carry out the instructions as above indicated.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

Postponement of the Second General International Sanitary Convention of the American Republics.

The International Sanitary Bureau has decided unanimously to postpone for one year the meeting of the Second International Sanitary Convention of the American Republics, which was to have been held in Santiago de Chile on March 15, 1904.